

# INTERNATIONAL BALLET THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | VERA ALTUNINA



## JANUARY

1/16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/22: Lunar New Year

## FEBRUARY

Black History Month

2/4: Rosa Parks Day

2/5: Lantern Festival

## MARCH

Women's History Month

3/8: International Women's Day

Irish American Heritage Month

## APRIL

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Arab American Heritage Month

4/17: Holocaust Remembrance Day

## MAY

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

## JUNE

LGBTQ+ Pride Month

6/19: Juneteenth

## JULY

Disability Pride Month

## SEPTEMBER

Latinx Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month

## OCTOBER

LGBTQ+ History Month

Global Diversity Awareness Month

Filipino American History

German American Heritage

Italian American Heritage

Polish American Heritage Month

## NOVEMBER

Native American Heritage Month

11/8: National First Generation Day

National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month

## DECEMBER

12/3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

# SEPTEMBER



Celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of dancers whose ancestors came from **Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.**



# LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER

Please help us learn more about our IBA Family.

Email us your picture and/or story to  
[outreach@ibtbellevue.org](mailto:outreach@ibtbellevue.org)

OR

Scan the QR code below to help us build our  
Heritage World Map



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**INTERNATIONAL  
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# SEPTEMBER



## CELEBRATING OUR IBA/IBT STAFF & DANCERS HISPANIC HERITAGE



Jackie Villegas-MacLin is of Mexican American and Spanish heritage. She was born and raised in the coastal town of Santa Barbara California where she is a 7th generation descendant. Jackie's ancestors on her maternal side goes back to the original Spanish settlers of the central and southern coastal regions of California as early as the 1700's.

Jackie's Hispanic cultural background is honored, preserved, and continues to flow in her veins through her lifetime of studying and teaching Mexican Folk and Spanish Flamenco dancing.



**Kareli Dotson**

**BALLET 3**

Dancing with IBA since 2017

Born in USA with hispanic heritage from Colombia from her mother's side. Outside of ballet, Kareli loves planning gatherings with her friends, play with her puppies, play her violin, swim, read a good book and crocheting.

# SEPTEMBER

## National Hispanic Heritage Month

An American dance company and educational organization founded in New York in 1970 by Tina Ramirez, Ballet Hispánico is now the biggest Latinx cultural organization in the country. Most known for their virtuosic and culturally important dance pieces, the organization also produces community arts partnerships and hosts events and dialogues meant to empower and give agency to the latinx community in New York and across the world. Many famous Hispanic and Hispanic-American dancers have either danced or choreographed for the company.

Ramirez, a Puerto Rican/Mexican-American founded the company to increase accessibility to dance and art for the marginalized latinx community. In 2009, Eduardo Vilaro, a Cuban-American dancer, became the Artistic Director of the company. Vilaro actually started his career with Ballet Hispánico as a dancer, performing works created by a long list of choreographers, including the aforementioned Argentine choreographer, Graciela Daniele.

Ballet Hispánico may be the biggest dance organization of its kind, but it is not the only one. Ballet Folklórico is a dance company in Mexico that has performed traditional Latin folk dances in over 80 countries, and is said to have weekly performances in Mexico City. Founder Amalia Hernández is a great example of a dancer who combined her technical prowess with her love for traditional Latin folk dance and storytelling, Hernández, born in Mexico City in 1917, grew up dancing in Mexico, training in both western styles as well as in traditional Mexican folk dances. Ultimately, her pride and interest in Mexican folkloric dances and how they represented Mesoamerican cultures led her to create the Ballet Folklórico de Mexico in 1952.



## Ballet Hispánico & Ballet Folklórico

# SEPTEMBER

## National Hispanic Heritage Month

### Julio Bocca



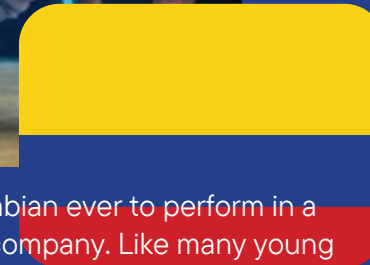
Born in Buenos Aires, Julio Bocca started ballet lessons at the age of four, and at the age of seven entered the National School of Dance, progressing to the Teatro Colón's Advanced Arts Institute a year later. His mother was a dance teacher who encouraged his studies. Bocca joined the Chamber Ballet Company at the Colón Theatre in 1981. A year later, he began performing as a soloist in a production directed by Danish choreographer Flemming Flindt. In 1985, aged 18, he won the gold medal at the International Ballet Competition in Moscow and was invited to join the American Ballet Theatre by Mikhail Baryshnikov, the youngest principal dancer ever hired. Although Bocca was a principal dancer, he was allowed to perform frequently as a guest artists with other companies. In 1987, he was named Dancer of the Year by the New York Times.

### Ingrid Silva



This girl from Rio initiated her dance classes at the age of 8. In Brazil, she did her internship at the Deborah Colker Dance Company and Grupo Corpo, two much esteemed companies. Ingrid got a scholarship to study at the Dance Theater of Harlem, in New York, which completely changed her life. Thanks to her talent and hard work, she was promoted to the highest possible rank, becoming a Principal Dancer with the company. Currently, Ingrid uses her space and influence to discuss the difficulties people of color still face in ballet, being an inspiration to black ballerinas everywhere.

### Fernando Montano



Fernando Montaño was the first Colombian ever to perform in a leading role at the British largest ballet company. Like many young boys, he initially dreamed of being a football player, but as he saw some ballet for the first time on TV, he started copying the movements and felt something bigger, though he had no idea what ballet was. Born in Buenaventura in 1985, Montaño, the youngest of four children, was six when he and his family moved from Colombia's Pacific coast to Cali, the country's third-largest city and home for its only proper ballet school. By the age of 12, Fernando Montaño left football behind for good and began taking ballet lessons. It was a late start for a ballet dancer but his perseverance made him play for time and win a scholarship to the famed Cuban National Ballet School, in Havana. At first, he was placed with a family who welcomed him. His parents sacrificed their savings to help him support their dream and afford their children's stay in Cuba. When Fernando Montaño graduated, he was hired by the Cuban National Ballet. Then, an offer from Europe came: the aspiring Italian Cuban dancer Venus Villa asked the Colombian to join her in the prestigious Rieti Ballet Competition.

### Karina Gonzales



Karina González is a native of Caracas, Venezuela and a silver medal winner of the New York International Ballet Competition in 2007. She trained at the Gustavo Franklin Ballet School in Caracas, Venezuela and has danced professionally with Ballet National of Caracas and Tulsa Ballet, where she reached the rank of principal in 2007. Ms. González joined Houston Ballet as a soloist in 2010 and was promoted to principal dancer in February 2013 following her performance as Nikiya in Stanton Welch's La Bayadère.



## Carlos Acosta

Mr. Acosta was born in Cuba and has danced with many companies all over the world including the English National Ballet, National Ballet of Cuba, Houston Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. He is currently the director of the **Birmingham Royal Ballet**.

## Sara Pereyra Baras



Sara Pereyra Baras was born in Cadiz in 1971 and from an early age received dance instruction from her mother. She had her first dance lessons at La Tertulia Flamenca de la Isla, in San Fernando, an academy that was run by her mother Concha Vargas and after this she joined Los Niños de la Tertulia Flamenca, where she served her apprenticeship as a flamenco dancer.

Sara Baras grew up in the same streets as her “artistic godfather”, Camaron de la Isla, the singer she admired most and a man she would later pay tribute to, appearing in many performances in his honor.

Her artistic break came when she joined Manuel Morao’s Gitanos de Jerez, a company set up by the jerezano guitarist whose aim was to showcase new flamenco talent from the province of Cadiz.

## Amalia Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez was born in Mexico and eventually founded the **Ballet Folklórico de México**, which utilizes ballet and traditional Mexican folk dance. She was a world-renowned teacher, dancer, choreographer, and won the National Arts Award for Fine Arts in 1992





# Ballet Hispánico

